

## Consultation – School term dates 2027/2028

### Background

Milton Keynes City Council is required by the Department for Education to set term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools in Milton Keynes. Other types of schools, such as Foundation, Voluntary Aided and Academies set their own term dates. There must be 190 education days. Schools are then free to identify five INSET days (training days) from the remaining 175 days in the year when the school is closed to pupils. The council can only set term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools (36% of the schools in Milton Keynes) as the law no longer allows us to ensure that term dates for all schools are aligned.

These diverse stakeholders - Foundation, Voluntary Aided and Academies schools and neighbouring local authorities do not have to align with the term dates set by Milton Keynes City Council. They will have their considerations regarding their preferred dates (e.g. the dates set across their Multi Academy Trust, neighbouring schools, local authorities. This means there will be varying opinions depending on their own perspectives and presents complexities. It is therefore difficult to achieve a consistent set of dates which work for all parents, schools and staff working in schools.

In recognition of the complexities, the local authority engages with schools across the city, and there is a strong desire to align the proposed dates. Following discussions with schools across Milton Keynes, this consultation sets out a possible option for the 2027/2028 term dates. We are keen to seek your views on this proposal.

\*Please note that whilst 190 days are required to be set the proposal below provide 195 days, therefore allowing schools to allocate five training days within these proposed dates.

### Proposed option

Term	Open morning of	Close at the end of the afternoon session on	Total days per half term
Autumn Term 2027	1 September 2027	22 October 2027	38
	1 November 2027	17 December 2027	35
Spring Term 2028	4 January 2028	11 February 2028	29
	21 February 2028	31 March 2028	30
Summer Term 2028	18 April 2028	26 May 2028	28
	5 June 2028	21 July 2028	35
			195

**Considerations:**

- The proposed dates mirror the dates which are being considered and are expected to be proposed by many other schools within Milton Keynes, our neighbouring authorities, and a number of other authorities across our local regions. However, there is no guarantee that other stakeholders will determine these dates.
- Milton Keynes school colleagues indicated a preference for term dates to be evenly spread and aligning with key public holidays where possible. There is also a strong desire for the term dates to mirror neighbouring authorities where possible, and a willingness for schools that set their own dates to align with others across Milton Keynes.
- The Easter bank holiday weekend falls at the end of the Easter break.

**Who decides term dates?**

For community and voluntary controlled schools in Milton Keynes, it is a political decision made by the Cabinet member for Children and Families. We are therefore seeking your feedback on these proposed dates beforehand to ensure that they are suitable. A summary of the responses from this consultation will be included as part of the decision-making process.

**Your views**

To give us your comments on the proposed term dates for 2027/2028 please either:

- complete our online form by 22 February 2026
- email: [sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

A calendar of the proposed term dates is attached.